

REMARKS:

This amendment is for the purpose of amending the Specification in the original application by amending claims 1, 17 and 20 so that claims 1 through 20 remain in this application.

The Official Action objects to the drawings as it is unclear if figures 1 and 3 are conventional or figures 1 and 2 as noted in the specification. The Examiner states that Figures 1 and 3 are indicated as being "prior art," and that element #16 in Figure 2 does not appear to be an opening as indicated on page 6 of the specification. The Examiner further states that corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required. Applicant believes that the drawings are in full compliance with 37 CFR 1.84, however, in order to remove any confusion with regard to the prior art depiction shown only in Figure 3 as labeled, Applicant herewith files Figures 1 and 3 on separate sheets, labeled as "Replacement Sheets" to comply with 37 CFR 1.121 (d). Applicant avers that no amendments to Figures 1 and 3 have been made and further avers that no new matter has been added by providing the replacement sheets. Since no part of any drawing is being canceled or amended, Applicant does not include marked up drawings. Applicant believes that the filing of Replacement Sheets is in full compliance with the statutes and therefore believes that the objection to the drawings has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Figures 1 and 3 and the language contained in the specification and claims of this application. Consonant with 37CFR 1. 84 (j), Applicant elects Figure 2 for publication for the Front Page View of the issued patent.

With regard to element number 16, Applicant believes that the generalized arrow shown in Figures 2 and 5 is in compliance with the statutes and particularly with 37 CFR 1.84 ® wherein it is stated:

( r) Arrows. Arrows may be used at the ends of lines, provided that their meaning is clear, as follows:

(1) On a lead line, a freestanding arrow to indicate the entire section towards which it points;

Applicant has used the generalized arrow for numeral 16 as numeral 16 indicates that there may be multiple apertures or, alternately, as shown in Figure 4, only one aperture. In the preferred embodiment of Figs. 1 & 2 and the alternate embodiment of Fig. 5, Applicant uses the numeral 34 to indicate that the apertures are elongated slots (34) rather than single openings elsewhere depicted. Applicant believes that further confusion would be created by relabeling all the apertures in Figures

1, 2 and 5 with the numeral 34 and thus believes that the generalized arrow with numeral 16 is best suited to indicate the entire area where apertures are provided through the opaque and/or translucent coverings but not through the solid elongated pane as no aperture exists through the elongated pane. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the drawings in view of the replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 3 and the above comments, however, if the Examiner persists with the objection to the drawings cited in the Official Action, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's assistance with making the drawings comply with the Examiner's understanding thereof.

The Official Action rejects claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, 11 and 13 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beck, U. S. Patent 6,116,678 as Beck discloses a window assembly including an elongate transparent pane 34, at least one lighting assembly (32) and at least one opaque covering (33, 73) wherein the opaque (33, 73) covering includes at least one aperture (35) and (92a,b).

Though, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the application of the patent of Beck as lamp 32 of Beck is attached to the exterior of the window and thus cannot transmit light through the outside surface of the window, Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 20 to recite that the light comes from the light source, passes through the apertures in the covering(s) and the solid pane, in order from the inside to the outside, and that the light then propagates from the outside surface of the pane. Therefore, the teaching of Beck that the light source is attached to the outside surface is clearly overcome by claiming that the light source is mounted on the interior of the window assembly and that light passes therefrom through the apertures, the pane and propagates from the exterior surface of the pane. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the abstract of Beck wherein it is stated "There is at least one lamp (32) attached to the window pane (34) directly on an exterior surface of the end portions of the window pane (34) opposite the end portions of the panel (38)." The Examiner's attention is also drawn to column 7 in lines 33 - 45 wherein attachment of lamps 32 to the window is accomplished by fasteners and wherein it is clear from the drawings that the lamps 32 are on the exterior of the window pane. As stated above, if the lamp is mounted on the exterior surface of the window, even if there are apertures through the window and the film (73), light cannot emanate from the lighting assembly through the aperture(s), through the pane and propagate from the exterior surface of said window assembly as claimed by Applicant in claims 1, 17 and 20. Furthermore, as claimed in claim 20 of the instant application, transmission of light from a lighting assembly mounted adjacent an interior surface of the elongated transparent pane through at least one aperture cannot be accomplished by Beck as Beck teaches that the lighting assembly is mounted on

the exterior of the window. Further, in column 8 beginning on line 10, Beck also teaches "There are wire holes 92 in the window pane 34 which allow the wires 90 for the lamps 32 to extend through the window pane and be connected to the electrical system of the limousine 10a." Finally, in lines 13 et seq, Beck teaches that "(U)pon assembly, a gasket 102 is disposed between the base 32a and the exterior surface of the window pane 34, with the openings 102a and 102b respectively aligned with the holes 92a' and 92b' in the base and holes 92a and 92b in the window pane. In each hole carrying a fastener 80 or 100, there is inserted into the hole a grommet 104 which surrounds the fastener." Thus, Beck teaches away from the solid transparent pane as now taught by Applicant in claim 20 and in fact, teaches that the hole disposed through the pane is fitted with a fastener which would prohibit light from passing through the pane at that point. Since Beck does not teach light emanating from a light source disposed interiorly of the window but rather that the light source is attached to the exterior of the window and further that Beck does not teach that the light passes through the apertures in any of the elements cited, Applicant believes that the rejection of all claims has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, 11 and 13 - 20, however if the Examiner persists with the application of Beck to the claims here presented, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's assistance in making the claims allowable thereover.

The Official Action rejects claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck, U. S. Patent 6,116,678 as the Examiner maintains that Beck discloses the basic claimed window assembly except for indicating that the opaque covering covers surfaces along the edges of the transparent pane, except for the apertures being a plurality of spaced apart slots and except for the apertures being aligned with the lighting assembly. Applicant believes that the rejection of the independent claims has been overcome in view of the amendments thereto as recited above and that Applicant is entitled to the further restrictions to the independent claims as contained in claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 12. Therefore, Applicant believes the rejection of claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 12 based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 12.

Applicants are greatly appreciative of the Examiner's prompt action in the examination of this docket.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 20 to overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, 11 and 13 - 20 based on 35USC102(b) and claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 12 based on

35 U.S.C. 103(a) thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 1 - 20 remain in this application and Applicant respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In view of the above, an Action on the merits of this application, as amended, and an allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

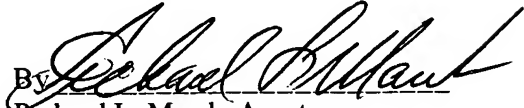
Respectfully submitted,

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